

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00
INRE-00 ACDE-00 DOEE-00 /026 W
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O 081842Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9346
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 02 GENEVA 07012

EXDIS USCTB

PASS TO DOE

E.O. 11652:XGDS-3
TAGS: PARM US UK UR
SUBJECT: CTB NEGOTIATIONS: VIEWS OF NEW SOVIET
REPRESENTATIVE

CTB MESSAGE NO. 195

1. SUMMARY. US ALT REPS JOHNSON AND NEIDLE MET INFORMALLY
OVER DRINKS MAY 6 WITH NEW USSR CTB REP PETROSYANTS AND
HIS DEPUTY, TIMERBAEV. PETROSYANTS SEEMED MOST INTER-
ESTED IN WHETHER US HAD INSTRUCTIONS PERMITTING IT TO
ENGAGE IN SERIOUS NEGOTIATIONS. DURING CONVERSATION HE
DECLARED THAT SOV DEL HAD INSTRUCTIONS PERMITTING IT TO
NEGOTIATE ON DETAILS OF VERIFICATION ISSUES, INCLUDING
ISIS, AS WELL AS ON POLITICAL ISSUES SUCH AS DURATION
AND PNE LINKAGE. HE CHARACTERIZED MAIN PROBLEM BEFORE
NEGOTIATIONS AS HOW TO TRANSFORM SOV SEISMIC CAPABILITY,
WHICH HAD BEEN DESIGNED FOR SUCH TASKS AS EARTHQUAKE
PREDICTION, INTO A CAPABILITY TO MONITOR A CTB.
PETROSYANTS STRUCK US AS A HIGHLY CAPABLE AND CONFIDENTIAL
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DENT SENIOR OFFICIAL WHO IS EAGER TO GET INTO GENUINE
NEGOTIATIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. PETROSYANTS BEGAN CONVERSATION SAYING THAT HE HAD MADE
SIX TRIPS TO THE US; THAT HE KNEW AMERICANS WELL AND
HAD WORKED EXTENSIVELY WITH THEM; AND THAT, SINCE HE WAS
NOT A DIPLOMAT OR A LAWYER, BUT A SCIENTIST AND A

PROBLEM SOLVER, HE WOULD TAKE THE LIBERTY OF BEING BLUNT WITH US. COULD WE TELL HIM THAT THE AMERICAN DEL HAD INSTRUCTIONS THAT WOULD PERMIT US TO ENGAGE IN GENUINE NEGOTIATIONS? JOHNSON RESPONDED THAT HE APPRECIATED THE OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK FRANKLY. HE HAD ALWAYS DISCUSSED ISSUES ON THIS BASIS WITH HIS SOVIET COUNTERPART IN SALT. JOHNSON SAID THE US DEL IS READY TO NEGOTIATE.

3. NEIDLE SAID THAT THE US HAD RETURNED READY TO OFFER CONCRETE NEGOTIATING FORMULATIONS, NOT AN ABSTRACT DISCUSSION PAPER, ON A KEY VERIFICATION ISSUE, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ISIS, AND WE INTENDED TO PRESENT THESE ON MONDAY. HOWEVER, AT THE LAST ROUND THE SOVIET DEL HAD MAINLY TOLD US THAT THERE MUST NOT BE TOO MUCH DETAIL. SPEAKING FRANKLY, IN THE SPIRIT OF PETROSYANTS' QUESTION, NEIDLE CONTINUED THAT, IF THERE WERE TO BE GENUINE NEGOTIATIONS, THIS TIME IT WAS UP TO THE SOVIET DEL TO RESPOND SERIOUSLY AND IN DETAIL TO THE SPECIFIC PROPOSALS WE PUT FORTH. BUT THERE OBVIOUSLY WOULD NOT BE NEGOTIATIONS IF THE SOVIETS SAID THAT ALL THE DETAILS WERE TO BE WORKED OUT LATER, BY DIFFERENT PEOPLE, IN A DIFFERENT FORUM, THAT IS THE JOINT CONSULTATIVE COMMISSION. PETROSYANTS RESPONDED THAT ENTERING INTO REAL NEGOTIATIONS WOULD DEPEND NOT JUST ON THE SOVIET UNION BUT ON BOTH SIDES--THE SOVIET AND THE AMERICAN SIDE. IN RESPONSE TO A DIRECT QUESTION, HE SAID "YES", THE SOVIET SIDE DID HAVE INSTRUCTIONS PERMITTING
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IT TO NEGOTIATE ON THE DETAILS OF ISIS; IT WOULD CONSIDER OUR PROPOSALS SERIOUSLY; AND IT DID INTEND TO NEGOTIATE.

4. PETROSYANTS SAID THAT THE SOVIET UNION HAD AN ADEQUATE NETWORK OF SEISMIC INSTALLATIONS ALREADY ON ITS TERRITORY. THEY SATISFY THE SOVIET UNION COMPLETELY, BUT THEY WERE DESIGNED FOR SUCH TASKS AS EARTHQUAKE PREDICTION. NOW THERE IS A DIFFERENT, MORE COMPLEX TASK--IDENTIFYING NUCLEAR TEST EXPLOSIONS. THIS WILL REQUIRE THOROUGH DISCUSSION OF TECHNICAL DETAILS. PETROSYANTS WAS PERSONALLY FAMILIAR WITH THE SOVIET PROGRAM. MOREOVER, THE SOVIET DEL WAS ADEQUATELY STAFFED WITH TECHNICAL PERSONNEL CAPABLE OF DEALING WITH THE DETAILED TECHNICAL ISSUES. HE WAS SURE THE US DELEGATION WAS ALSO. TOGETHER THEY SHOULD DISCUSS THE TECHNICAL DETAILS, AND IF DIFFICULTIES AROSE THE HEADS OF DELEGATION COULD INTERVENE.

5. NEIDLE COMMENTED THAT THERE WERE TWO BROAD CATEGORIES OF ISSUES--THE HIGHLY TECHNICAL VERIFICATION ISSUES AND THE HIGH POLITICAL ISSUES LIKE DURATION AND WITHDRAWAL. THE LATTER TYPE OF ISSUE ALSO HAD TO BE SUBJECT TO GENUINE

NEGOTIATIONS OR WE WOULD NOT HAVE A TREATY. AT THE LAST ROUND, THE SOVIET HEAD OF DELEGATION HAD MERELY EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THESE ISSUES COULD BE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED. BUT AT SOME POINT WE HAD TO COME TO GRIPS WITH THEM. DID THE SOVIET DEL HAVE SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS PERMITTING IT TO NEGOTIATE SOLUTIONS LIKELY TO BE SATISFACTORY TO BOTH SIDES? PETROSYANTS TURNED THE FLOOR OVER TO TIMERBAEV WHO REPEATED AT LENGTH THE GENERAL STATEMENTS MADE BY MOROKHOV AT THE LAST ROUND EXPRESSING THE

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EXPECTATION THAT THESE ISSUES WOULD BE SATISFACTORILY RESOLVED AT THE APPROPRIATE STAGE OF THE NEGOTIATIONS, BUT THAT THE IMPORTANT THING WAS TO MOVE AHEAD FIRST ON THE VERIFICATION ISSUES. WHEN NEIDLE ASKED PETROSYANTS AGAIN DIRECTLY WHETHER THE SOVIET DEL HAD INSTRUCTIONS PERMITTING MOVEMENT ON THE KEY POLITICAL ISSUES, PETROSYANTS RESPONDED THAT THE SOVIET SIDE DID AVE SUCH INSTRUCTIONS AND IT WOULD BE PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE.

6. COMMENT: PETROSYANTS INDICATED THAT HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET FROM TIME TO TIME IN INFORMAL MEETINGS IN ORDER TO DISCUSS DIFFICULT KEY ISSUES ON A COMPLETELY FRANK BASIS. HE REFERRED TO HIMSELF SEVERAL TIMES AS A PROBLEM SOLVER. THE SOVIET DEL HAS NOT YET, OF COURSE, MADE ANY MOVES DEMONSTRATING NEW FLEXIBILITY OR NEW WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE ON A DETAILED BASIS. MOREOVER, INITIAL REACTIONS OF THE MILITARY/TECHNICAL SIDE OF THE SOVIET

DEL TO OUR ISI PROPOSALS MAY CONTINUE TO BE CAUTIOUS AND
SUSPICIOUS AND EVEN PERHAPS HOSTILE. NEVERTHELESS,
INITIAL SIGNS FROM THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF THE SOVIET DELE-
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GATION SEEM FAVORABLE FOR PURPOSEFUL NEGOTIATIONS.
PETROSYANTS IS AWAITING WARNKE'S ARRIVAL EAGERLY. WE
THINK THERE MAY BE A PARTICULAR OPPORTUNITY WHEN WARNKE
ARRIVES TO TEST PETROSYANTS' READINESS AND ABILITY TO
UNTIE SOME KNOTS. END COMMENT. JOHNSON

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